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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Douglas D. Sjostrom
Serial No. : 10/015,778
Filed : December 17, 2001
Title : CUTTING INSTRUMENT

Art Unit : 3763
Examiner : Vi X Nguyen

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed November 29, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 5 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A cutting instrument, comprising
an outer member having a cutting edge; and
a helical knife coupled to the outer member for rotation relative to the outer member, at
least a portion of the helical knife having an edge configured to slice into tissue and extending
distally beyond the cutting edge of the outer member.

5. (Once Amended) The instrument of claim 1 wherein the edge comprises a helical
edge and the helical knife includes a helical channel.